

Environmental Steering Group Minutes

Thursday 22nd March

13:00-14:00

Room 250

1. Welcome
2. Current Environmental societies/ projects

Environmental podcast

Environmental campaign - WEN workshop & event

Public Bike Repair Stand

Common Ground Garden - sessions to promote to students

Vegan cooking classes

Food coop

Solar SOAS Green Fund

Decolonising Environmentalism

Beekeeping

NEW ACTION POINTS:

AG to contact common ground garden

AG to contact societies about sending a representative to next environmental steering group session

HS to contact about bins - more than just recycling bins in library

HS to check with Myles how to communicate to students

HS to check with stephen, council & local partners re anaerobic digestion

HS to bring up environmental impact form for societies to develop with Ian & Sophie

HS to contact estates about food waste from societies & what are the main issues

HS to modify society guideline

PB to find old one Union shop & bar procurement policy & update it & share with group - find a way to integrate with school procurement policy

Jamila to speak to DC about in-house stuff & how to include sustainability

PB to send strategic & operational plans to Anna

Anna to take current plan & add environmental part and take to trustees

HS to create google doc of SU env. Plan (linked to society guidelines & register/ all policies/ the school), review at next meeting & bring to trustees

PB to update job descriptions & let everyone know

Jamila to send HS some info about conference

AG to draft proposal about catering, and to send along with Mehdi & other sabbs

Set up meeting with Myles & Khaled once catering has been in process to coordinate everything e.g.

50P cups - also make sure there is a strong sustainability voice on the working group, zero waste, plant milk, ban of plastic bottles

HS to develop carbon emissions training for society presidents & general interested parties

- Sustainability rep for large societies

Include sustainability within remit of the co-presidents

3. Action points:

HS to contact Siobhan about bin usage

HS to deal with bin & catering

PB to send old S.U. [society food procurement policy](#) to Anna and Anna to update!

PB to find old one Union shop & bar procurement policy & update it & share with group

PB to update job descriptions

HS to check with [Antonia about job descriptions](#)

PB to email all staff with update!

AG to organise Go Green Week vegan cooking class

SOAS Env. Movement to email Mehdi plans for the week

Other:

→ How can we implement 50p charge on all coffee cups across SOAS (not just shop)

- Can we put something about the environment into next year's/update this year's general goals for the S.U?

A follow up meeting (with Khaled and possibly Myles Brenner) would be good to discuss:

- plant milk machine in shop (or bar?),
- how to implement zero waste
- a possible outright ban of plastic bottles (at least plastic throwaway cups in bar and canteen)

[Environment policy of the S.U.](#)

[4. Identifying most significant environmental impacts of the Union](#)

Auditors will be looking for a well-documented assessment of at least the top five environmental impacts of the union. The list should be ranked by magnitude of the negative impact. There is no right or wrong way to do this, but plenty of guidance is available online. There will be variation between unions depending on what operations they have: commercial unions may have different impacts to non-commercial; multi-site unions may have different impacts to single site unions, etc.

Evidence will revolve around the list of impacts. The list should be dated and in the public domain, and ideally on the union's sustainability webpage. Ideally the impacts will be quantified (the amount of miles, the size of carbon emissions, the weight of waste to landfill etc.) and there will be reference to what the union is doing to reduce them.

[5. SMART action plan on sustainability & publish it \(operational & campaigning & influencing\)](#)

[6. Other Green Impact questions](#)

7. Any other business & action points

- Monday 9th April meeting
- April 13th due date